

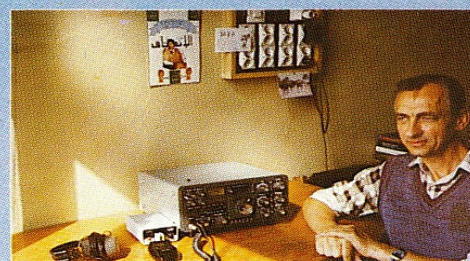
San Diego DX Club Bulletin



November 2011

BENGHAZI, LIBYA

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MEETING PROGRAM:

CLUB LOG

BY: JOHN GRAF, WA6L

OCTOBER 26, 2011 MEETING NOTICE:

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER

AERO DRIVE & MURPHY CANYON RD

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26, 2011

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M.

DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

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A Word from the Prez . . .

John Barcroft, K6AM



Way back in 1993 your club embarked on a program to recognize the lifetime achievements of its members. It was called the "Hall of Fame". Early on we inducted some of our most distinguished members including our founder, W6BZE, the original holder of our club call, W6PT and our uncle Ed, W6KUT. Since then, interest in the program has lapsed.

This year, we are taking the program off the back burner. Your awards committee has nominated our fourth all-time Hall of Fame recipient, Harry Hodges, W6YOO.

Harry's accomplishments and contributions to the club are worth repeating. He is near the top of the DXCC roles in all *three* modes, phone, CW, and RTTY. He is also a leader in the race for IOTA counters. He has given tirelessly to our club as the secretary-treasurer for an amazing 14 years straight and as a member of the board after that.

Please join us at our annual Christmas affair, on Sunday December 4 at 1:00 P.M. at the W6YI superstation for the induction ceremony as we recount Harry's long career as a U.S. Army man, family man, and top notch DX'er.

This year's party will be catered with enough for everyone, but feel free to bring your favorite dish to share. Admission is free to members and their families, but we will accept donations to the food and drink fund at the door. Remember the party takes the place of the November and December meetings so please don't show up at the Sizzler the day before Thanksgiving.

In other news, we can now report that the earlier reports of the demise of the 11-year sunspot cycle were greatly exaggerated. In the past three weeks, 10 and 12 meters have been *jumpin'*. I'm hearing a lot of you working new ones in a feeding frenzy that has been pent up for almost 10 years. Our newer members are finally getting a glimpse of what these bands were like during past peaks. Well guys, this is only the beginning. At this rate things should get even better over the next few years. So eat up!

Finally, on a sad note, we lost another of our long time members and a good friend to all. Bill Taylor, K6TQ passed at home with his family on Monday Oct 11. I'll cover Bill's final DX totals in next month's Top 10 column.

73, John

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

Treasurers Report

Ellen, N6UWW



Treasurers Report

Bank Balance as of September 1, 2011 \$3,245.02

Income:

Buy-back of Bash refreshments 200.00

Expenses:

Website hosting fee 75.00

Ending balance September 30, 2011 4,357.74

Petty cash 20.00

Total club funds \$3,370.02

San Diego DX Club Meeting Minutes

The San Diego DX Club held its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, September 28, 2011 at the Sizzler Restaurant, Aero Drive at Murphy Canyon Road.

Our president John, K6AM, called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Mark your calendars for the Club Christmas Party, which will be held on Sunday, December 4th.

Tears fell as K6AM announced the induction of Harry, W6YOO as the fourth member of the SDDXC Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be held at the Christmas party.

Dave, K5RQ gave a presentation on the ARRL Second Century Campaign and his efforts to start a training/emcomm facility in San Diego.

36 in attendance, including visitor N6NVE, Noel (pronounced like the holiday greeting), shared their accomplishments in the roundtable forum.

Joe, W6VNR, shared a slide presentation of his visit to the Japan Ham Fair and surrounding areas.

The club has use of a repeater (courtesy of Erik, KA6UAI) 145.280 with a PL of 74.4

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen, N6UWW

The SDDXC Top 10

John, K6AM



CURRENT COUNTRIES CONFIRMED ON PHONE

10/11	10/10	CALL	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	3.	W6CN	337	349	349	-
2.	7.	K9RHY	337	347	347	+3
3.	1.	K6AM	336	344	349	-2
4.	4.	W6YOO	336	344	345	-
5.	2.	W6YI	335	353	358	-2
6.	6.	NN6K	334	338	342	-
7.	-.	N0RR	333	353	353	NEW
8.	8.	W6YA	333	?	?	-
9.	9.	K6QS	332	335	338	-
10.	10.	N6CW	330	346	347	-
11.	11.	WA6MHZ	330	339	339	+2
12.	12.	N6ND	328	344	357	+4
13.	14.	K6ZH	327	333	333	+3
14.	13.	W6ZZ	324	350	351	-
15.	-.	K5OA	315	335	335	NEW
16.	16.	WN6K	302	310	324	+5
17.	15.	N6XT	299	299	313	-
18.	20.	K0XB	295	301	322	+18
19.	17.	NG6Z	292	292	295	-
20.	18.	W6GAK	290	290	290	-

We're lookin' at the Top 20 in this category to accommodate the larger number of entries. Bob, W6CN slides into number one without lifting a finger as last years leaders fall behind on their QSL'ing of the new PJ entities. Too bad too since we don't have Bob's email address to send him this bulletin.

The rest of the pack makes some nice moves as they report in with their new QSL's. Send me your updates when those cards come in so you won't get left in the dust. There's still plenty of room for a shakeup in the second ten, so you guys get out there and have some fun. We welcome newcomers N0RR and K5OA into the fray with some very fine totals.

Each month, we will publish a top ten list for one of the lesser-recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, CW, 10/40M and 80/20M. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

John, K6AM



The 5A0A Story

Bob Farkaly, K9RHY

The demise of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi triggered my recollection of chasing Libya many years ago as a rare CQ zone.

In June 1987, I was collecting contacts and QSL cards to finish my 5 Band WAZ. I needed three more band/zones: Zones 22 and 34 on 80 meters and Zone 34 on 10 meters. Of course we all know the definition of "rare": it's one you don't have. In June 1987, 5A on 80 and 10 were "rare" for me.

I had seen 5A0A spotted on 80 in several DX bulletins and heard about the operation on the local DX repeater. 5A0A was said to be running very low power with a marginal antenna. None of the guys in the Chicago area had hooked him on 80 yet, but when DXing, hope springs eternal.

Tuning around the low end of the CW portion of 80 meters one evening, I heard a faint CQ. I couldn't believe my ears because the CQing station signed 5A0A!

5A0A quickly (and easily) went into the log. I announced his presence on the repeater, made some "one ringer" calls to other Deserving and got ready to go to bed.

I have relived this QSO a number of times and thought a little digging might yield some additional information about this operation.

Here's what I learned: In late 1986 and early 1987, Hubert Trzaska, SP6RT, made more than 35,000 contacts from Benghazi, Libya. I've never been to Benghazi, a city about 400 miles East of Tripoli, but here is how the city is described by Roy Gutman of the McClatchy Newspapers:

"Benghazi may possess the most soulless cityscape on the Mediterranean, full of boxy new buildings that lack any architectural motif or sense of place and new dwellings with all the charm of high rises in Communist East Germany. "They're like prisons" says Ali Tarhouni, the new regime's finance and oil minister, of housing being built by Chinese contractors.

In the vast empty spaces that abut Benghazi's tangle of elevated highways, garbage is strewn as far as the eye can see. At the city's two showpiece hotels, located on an otherwise charming lake, the raw sewage that pollutes the water is enough to keep any visitor indoors. Trash litters the seaside, the water unsafe for swimming or fishing, and many buildings along the shore are derelict or decrepit."

Not exactly a Mediterranean paradise.

Bert arrived in Libya in the fall of 1985, as a guest of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahirija (SPLAJ), to teach in the electrical engineering department of the recently-erected Garyounis University.

He applied for a ham license, citing his research into radio propagation as his reason.

Nine months after applying, Bert's license came through. Unfortunately, he was unable to bring any radio gear into Libya at that time, nor was he able to get his own gear shipped to Libya from Poland.

A resourceful ham in the electrical engineering department of a university does not have to be at a total loss. Bert found a Rohde-Schwarz model EK-070 receiver that covered the ham bands So he could listen, but still no transmitter.

Bert asked several ham clubs and DX foundations for assistance, but was told he had to provide assurance that his operation would count for DXCC before providing the gear. His comments on this situation are worth quoting:



"I was unable to understand why ARRL had to poke its nose into Libyan affairs. My operating privileges have been issued by legal, internationally recognized authorities of the country and any other foreign examinations of legacy could be given up.

Of course, it is necessary to verify operations from areas of unclear administration, inaccessible areas, etc., but in the case of Libya? Maybe someone from the ARRL would like to go there and try to operate from there without appropriate authorization? Good luck!"



Not wanting to wait for the ARRL's decision before he got on the air, Bert located a Wavetek 178 signal generator that could pump out as much as 1 watt under ideal conditions. His jerry-rigged antenna, however, was far from ideal, and he was able to squeeze only a half of a watt out of the generator. Bert was on the air with a half watt, QRPp signal into the antenna!

The arrangement was far from perfect. To switch from receiving to transmitting, Bert had to key the operating

frequency and power output out of memory of the signal generator, and execute the change. Not exactly QSK. Nor was the antenna easy to tune. Keying the rig was yet another problem. The signal generator could not be keyed directly, as it took too long to reach frequency stability. Lacking alternatives, Bert decided to key the antenna circuit. After failing to find any suitable key, Bert resorted to tapping a banana plug into a socket to key the signal generator. 5A0A was on the air, with the first QSO on 14,005 kHz on November 22, 1986 with G6ZO.

Over the next three months, Bert logged nearly 6,000 contacts on every continent in more than 60 different countries with his half watt. The first 2,000 QSOs were made with his makeshift "keyer." The DX Bulletin reported at the time that Bert's CW was "very slow, and often strange." No surprise there – I can vouch for it!

Gradually, the ham community began to help out. DJ2BW and DK1RV sent Bert an electronic keyer, allowing his QSO rate to double.

Following the ARRL's acceptance of Bert's 5A0A operation for DXCC credit, the European DX Foundation (EUDXF) shipped him a Yaesu FT-901D transceiver.

An attempt to erect a tribander donated by INDEXA failed due to the lack of a rotor and cables and difficulties with Customs. 5A0A continued to use dipoles about 20 feet high for the rest of his operation.

Bert had little trouble working Europe with his modest station. Almost 29,000 of his 35,000 QSOs were with European DXers. He worked 3,700 North American hams, and 2,300 Asians, but only a handful of Oceania, South American, and fellow Africans. His totals show 8,100 SSB contacts and 27,400 on CW. He just missed 5BWAC, lacking only an Oceania station on 80.

DX "policemen" harassed his operation because his QSL manager, SP6BZ, was not listed in the latest Callbook.

Some DXers found themselves on Bert's "blacklist" for making too many duplicate QSOs. "They'll find their wait for a 5A0A QSL to be a long one!" Bert said.

Bert reported that his contacts with US stations were very good:

"I would like to express my admiration for W1, W5, W7, and W0 operators. I never had problems with W4 and W6, a few problems with W2 and W3, and I lost a lot of nerves in contacts with W8 and W9. Especially NIDXA should change its name to NIDXCo., Limited."

I really don't understand the hostility toward my old DX club (NIDXA). We were just a bunch of DXers trying to work a rare one. Go figure.

The 5A0A operation wrapped up on July 1, 1987, after logging 35,569 QSOs in 167 countries.

I thank him for giving me one of my three last zones for 5 Band WAZ.

Confirming our QSO/

Radio	K9RHY
Date	18 June 1987
UTC	3:31
MHz	3.5
RST	559
2 WAY	CW

Operator: Hubert Trzaska SP 6 RT
ul. Skwierzyńska 20/6
WROCLAW
POLAND

QSL-Manager - SP 6 BZ
Tnx QSL



TO RADIO
K9RHY

VIA

SP 6 BZ
Wiesław Ziolkowski
Post Office Box 253
50-950 WROCLAW 2
POLAND



Late October and November 2011 DX Contests				
Contest	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
CQ WW DX Contest - SSB	29-Oct	0000Z	30-Oct	2400Z
CQ WW DX Contest - CW	26-Nov	0000Z	27-Nov	2400Z

Top DX Twitter Feeds:

@dxcoffee; @ncdxf; @dailydx; @dx_world; @iaru;
@dxwatch; @dxanywhere; @dxmon; @arrl_dxcc; @cq_ham_radio

DX Is!!

Do You Tweet?

Twitter is one of the best ways to discover what's new in the world of DX. Twitter usage is growing exponentially in the world of DX. All the biggest DXpeditions now have their own accounts. A lot of ham-services are starting to interface their offerings with Twitter and the result is an incredible amount of information relating to DX, instantly available in real time sent directly to you.

On Twitter, popularity is measured by your number of followers. The more followers, the higher the number, the more users interested in your tweets.

Getting a Twitter account is quick and free. Go to <http://www.twitter.com> and sign up (if you don't already have a Twitter account. A "best practice" is to maintain separate business and personal Twitter IDs.

Use the website itself to monitor traffic or use a Twitter client like TweetDeck, tweetz, or one of the many iPhone or iPad apps. Then watch the real-time DX info roll in.

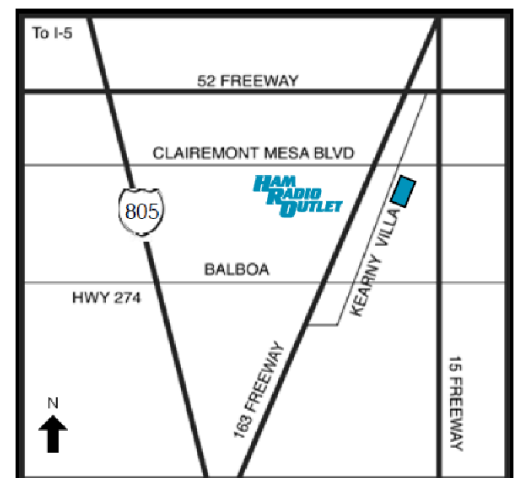
To help get you started, I have included a list of the most popular DX-oriented Twitter accounts.

Holiday Party and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Information

The San Diego DX Club Holiday Party will be held on Sunday December 4TH at 1:00 P.M.

The location will be the W6YI superstation located at 10250 Paso de Flora, Escondido, CA.

Please join us for the induction ceremony of our fourth all-time Hall of Fame recipient, Harry Hodges, W6YOO. We will recount Harry's long career as a U.S. Army man, family man, and top notch DX'er.



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